

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NASA-04 CPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

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TAGS: TSPA TECH PFOR UR

SUBJ: APOLLO 17 LUNAR SAMPLE PRESENTATION

REF: MOSCOW 9124 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED COPY OF STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN PODGORNYY RESPONDING TO REMARKS MADE BY CHARGE IN PRESENTING LUNAR SAMPLE DURING KREMLIN CEREMONY (REFTEL. STATEMENT IS BEING POUCHED TO MATLOCK, EUR/SOV, REG. ADDITIONAL DETALIS OF CEREMONY FOLLOW.

2. IN ACCEPTING LUNAR SAMPLE, PODGORNYY MADE IT CLEAR THAT SOVIETS, TOO, HAVE BROUGHT BACK SUCH SAMPLES AND SAID THAT NOW "WE WILL HAVE SAMPLES OF LUNAR ROCKS BROUGHT BACK BY AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS IN ADDITION TO THE ONES WE HAVE THAT WERE OBTAINED BY SOVIET AUTOMATIC STATIONS." HE SAID THAT THE US AND USSR, WHO ARE AHEAD OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN SPACE EXPLORATION, SHOULD SET AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL IN PEACEFUL COOPERATION IN SPACE. PODGORNYY NOTED THAT SINCE THE MAY 1972 SUMMIT MEETING US-USSR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. AS WELL AS COOPERATION IN OTHER FIELDS, HAS BEEN DEVELOPING SUCCESSFULLY, NOTING IN PARTICULAR THE GOOD BEGINNINGS ALREADY MADE IN THE FIELDS OF ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATOMIC ENERGY, AND SPACE.

3. AFTER THE FORMAL CEREMONY, PODGORNYY SEVERAL TIMES RETURNED TO IDEA THAT IF COUNTRIES CAN COOPERATE PEACEFULLY IN SPACE, THEY CAN AND MUST WORK TOGETHER TO REALIZE PEACE ON EARTH. CHARGE NOTED THAT PEOPLE IN US HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY SOVIET ACHIEVEMENTS IN SPACE, AND CHARACTERIZED NEW SPIRIT OF US-USSR COOPERATION AS "NEW DEPARTURE" IN SPACE EXPLORATION. HE FURTHER OBSERVED THAT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PRESENT REST ON THOSE OF SCIENTIFIC GIANTS OF THE PAST. HE COMMENTED THAT TWO SOVIET "GIANTS" IN SPACE (PRESIDENT KELDYSH OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND GENERAL NIKOLAYEV, COSMONAUT) WERE PRESENT AT CEREMONY. PODGORNYY, IN WHAT HAD TONE OF PUT-DOWN OF KELDYSH, SAID THAT KELDYSH INDEED MIGHT BE "GIANT" BUT THAT SPACE ACHIEVEMENTS ARE THE RESULTS OF MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING DESIGNERS, ENGINEERS, BUILDERS, AND SCIENTISTS. OF COURSE, HE ADDED, IN APPARENT DEFERENCE TO KELDYSH, SPACE EXPLORATION REQUIRES GOOD ADMINISTRATORS TOO.

4. ON COOPERATION: PODGORNYY SAID THAT COOPERATION CREATES CONDITIONS FOR MUCH FASTER SOLUTION OF MAJOR PROBLEMS. WHEN SEPARATE PATHS ARE TAKEN, THE MANY BENEFITS OF COOPERATION ARE LOST. THE LEADERS AND THE ENTIRE PEOPLES OF THE US AND THE USSR SUPPORT THE RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS, HE ADDED, AND THEY ARE RELIEVED THAT THE RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A MORE STABLE WORLD. BOTH COUNTRIES, AND THE ENTIRE WORLD, HAVE MUCH TO GAIN FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED AT THE TWO RECENT SUMMIT MEETINGS. MOST COUNTRIES SUPPORT THESE BILATERAL STEPS, BUT OTHERS DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED, ALLEGING THAT THE US AND USSR HOPE TO DIVIDE THE WORLD AND CREATE SPHERES OF INFLUENCE, PODGORNYY OBSERVED. BUT THE SOVIETS, HE SAID, ARE CONVINCED THAT TIME WILL PROVE THE CORRECTNESS OF OUR ACTIONS AND THE VALUE OF THE AGREEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN REACHED. THESE AGREEMENTS WILL SERVE THE INTERESTS OF ALL MANKIND. HE SAID THAT THE US AND USSR WERE COMPLETELY CAPABLE OF LIVING AND DEVELOPING INDEPENDENTLY. THE USSR HAS GOTTEN ALONG QUITE WELL FOR FIFTY YEARS. BUT THIS IS MORE COMPLICATED FOR BOTH, AND THE PATH OF WHICH THE US AND USSR HAVE NOW SET OUT ON WILL BE MORE FRUITFUL FOR THEM AND WILL BENEFIT ALL COUNTRIES.

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5. ON SUMMIT MEETINGS: WE SHOULD HAVE MORE SUMMIT MEETINGS, PODGORNYY EXCLAIMED, AND THE USSR IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT NEXT YEAR. IT IS NOT NECESSARY THAT ALL OUR MEETINGS LEAD TO THE SIGNING OF A LARGE NUMBER OF IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS, AS WAS THE CASE DURING THE MAY, 1972 AND JUNE, 1973 SUMMIT MEETINGS. AFTER ALL, IT IS POSSIBLE TO RUN OUT OF DOCUMENTS TO SIGN, HE SAID. BUT EACH MEETING WILL LEAD TO NEW POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND LEAD TO A

CONCOMITANT RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS.

6. SOVIET PIONEERS: AS CHARGE WAS SAYING FEW WORDS TO PODGORNYY BEFORE LEAVING CEREMONY, PRESIDENT KELDYSH ASKED PODGORNYY'S PERMISSION TO SAY FEW REMARKS, WHEREUPON HE AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS GREAT ADMIRATION OF THE US SPACE EFFORT AND, IN PARTICULAR, FOR THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE APOLLO PROGRAM HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT APOLLO WAS BUILT ON THE PATH FORGED BY THE SOVIETS, WHO PUT THE FIRST SPUTNIK INTO SPACE AND LAUNCHED THE FIRST COSMONAUT.

7. COMMENT: THE OVER-ORGANIZED (AND UNEXPECTED) POMP OF THE CEREMONY STAGED BY THE SOVIETS, AND THE PRESENCE OF SO MANY DIGNITARIES AND PHOTOGRAPHERS, (PARA TWO REFTEL) WAS RATHER SURPRISING, ESPECIALLY SINCE SOVIETS KNEW THIS WAS NOT UNIQUE AND THAT SIMILAR LUNAR SAMPLE WAS BEING PRESENTED TO A LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. WE OBTAINED IMPRESSION THAT SIGNIFICANCE ATTACHED TO THIS EXAMPLE OF SPACE COOPERATION WAS REALLY A "FRONT" FOR DIFFERENT SPACE COOPERATION ON MINDS OF SOVIETS, NAMELY JOINT DOCKING MISSION OF 1975. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOVIETS WERE PLAYING UP THIS CEREMONY IN EFFORT TO IMPRESS UPON US THE VALUE THEY PLACE ON SPACE COOPERATION AND THAT WE SHOULD NOT HAVE MISGIVINGS ABOUT JOINT DOCKING MISSION EVEN THOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOVIET SPACE FAILURES RECENTLY. APRT FROM WELL-KNOWN ADVANTAGES BOTH TO US AND USSR OF JOINT DOCKING MISSION, SOVIETS PRESUMABLY WANT THIS EVENT TO DEMONSTRATE TO OTHERS THAT THEY ARE IN SAME SPACE LEAGUE" AS US AND ON PARITY WITH IT. ALSO, SINCE IN MANY SECTORS, USSR IS NOT WELL-KNOWN FOR ITS MANAGERIAL

EXCELLENCE, SOVIETS MAY FEEL THEY ARE GAINING MUCH VALUABLE U.S. EXPERIENCE IN SPACE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE JOINT DOCKING PROJECT.

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